

July 15, 2019

Regional Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (OPA-2)
San Francisco, CA 94105

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under the **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**.

I request emails sent to and from the following individuals at EPA related to the preparation, creation, release and reaction to the decision to close National Exposure Research Laboratory operations in Las Vegas, Nevada from Jan. 20, 2017 to the date that this request is processed:

**Mike Stoker
Deborah Jordan
Alexis Strauss
Robert Andrews**

Please consider emails containing one or more of the following search terms as responsive records to my request:

["National Exposure Research Laboratory" AND ("closure" OR "closing" OR "close" OR "relocation" OR "relocating" OR "relocate" OR "consolidation" OR "consolidating" OR "consolidate" OR "co-location" OR "co-locating" OR "co-locate" OR "decommission" OR "decommissioning")]
OR

["NERL" AND ("closure" OR "closing" OR "close" OR "relocation" OR "relocating" OR "relocate" OR "consolidation" OR "consolidating" OR "consolidate" OR "co-location" OR "co-locating" OR "co-locate" OR "decommission" OR "decommissioning")]
OR

["Las Vegas lab" AND ("closure" OR "closing" OR "close" OR "relocation" OR "relocating" OR "relocate" OR "consolidation" OR "consolidating" OR "consolidate" OR "co-location" OR "co-locating" OR "co-locate" OR "decommission" OR "decommissioning")]
OR

["Ann Pitchford" AND ("closure" OR "closing" OR "close" OR "relocation" OR "relocating" OR "relocate" OR "consolidation" OR "consolidating" OR "consolidate" OR "co-location" OR "co-locating" OR "co-locate" OR "decommission" OR "decommissioning")]
OR

[“Pitchford” AND (“closure” OR “closing” OR “close” OR “relocation” OR “relocating” OR “relocate” OR “consolidation” OR “consolidating” OR “consolidate” OR “co-location” OR “co-locating” OR “co-locate” OR “decommission” OR “decommissioning”)] OR

Please do not consider responsive records to this request as already publicly-released material, such as correspondence sent by members of the general public, email newsletters, email news alerts, news clippings and press releases, unless this material was emailed with commentary to and/or from one of the named individuals in this request.

Please click on this link for more detail on this laboratory (<https://www.epa.gov/greeningepa/national-exposure-research-laboratory-and-radiation-and-indoor-environments-national>).

If possible, I would prefer to receive the largest number of records or documents in electronic form.

I am filing this FOIA request as a “representative of the news media” since I am a reporter for E&E News. This designation entitles me to a waiver of fees accumulated during the actual search and review process. Nevertheless, if your agency does determine that I should be charged for any part of this request, please contact me before estimated costs exceed \$25.

This request is made as part of news-gathering activity and is not for commercial use.

The information responsive to this FOIA request will contribute to the public’s understanding of your agency and the government at large. This information is not in the public domain but once your agency responds to this FOIA request, it will be printed on our website, www.eenews.net, which has more than 40,000 unique visitors a day. We expect the information that is produced through this and other FOIA requests to serve as the basis for several articles that explain the government’s actions and operations to the public. For more information about E&E News, please refer to www.eenews.net.

FOIA requires that if part of a record is exempt from disclosure, you must redact and release all segregated parts. Please describe the deleted material in detail and specify the reasons for believing that the alleged statutory justification applies in this instance.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, please specify which exemption(s) is (are) claimed for each passage or whole document denied. In addition, please give the number of pages in each document and the total number of pages pertaining to this request and the dates of the documents withheld. Such statements will be helpful in deciding whether to appeal an adverse determination.

As required by FOIA, I look forward to hearing from your office within 20 days in response to this request.

If you have any questions about the nature or scope of this request, please call me at 202-446-0401 or email me at kbogardus@eenews.net.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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